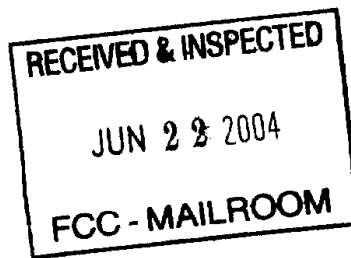




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June 16, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20445

Dear Ms. Dortch,

**RE: MB Docket No. 04-160**

I am writing to express my concern regarding the FCC allowing XM, Sirius and any future satellite companies to provide local weather and traffic service to subscribers. In granting satellite radio licenses, the FCC relied on the express promises by these satellite radio providers to keep their service "national". Now these aforementioned companies have broken their promises and have begun providing local weather and traffic service in the top 21 markets.

For over 40 years, WFMD and WFRE radio have served our mid-Maryland communities with entertainment, news, weather, traffic and other forms of local information. We have made every effort to be intimately involved with the marketplace. We support local causes and provide promotional support for numerous local events.

Providing news, traffic, weather and sports information isn't free. We budget \$105,000 in cash and barter another \$195,000 in advertising to pay for our local news, traffic and weather services. In 2003 alone our stations' raised \$125,000 for worthy local causes and gave away another \$200,000 in free publicity for community events and outreach programs. How much money has XM or Sirius put back into my market or the Top 21 markets they now serve with local weather and traffic content? Meanwhile radio broadcasters have given \$9.6 billion to their local communities.

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In my 25 years in radio, I've worked for small owners and chains of various sizes. Before the 1996 Telecom act, some of my employers had problems competing and making a profit. Consolidation has saved the radio industry and helped it become a viable business again in all market sizes. Clear Channel radio is the best at assuring their local market operations give back to the communities we serve. With all the lip service some commissioners pay to the death of "localism" in broadcasting, for these same people to allow an interloper like satellite radio to circumvent the FCC 's promise makes no sense. The FCC vowed to protect "vibrant" local broadcasting, and promised to take "any necessary action to safeguard the important service that terrestrial radio provides." The time for action is now!

Please support the NAB Petition. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Hillard", written in a cursive style.

Doug Hillard  
VP/Market Manager

C: Congressman Roscoe Bartlett  
Senator Paul Sarbanes  
Senator Barbara Mikulski